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in which the underlying principles are explained, and the object of the experiment is clearly pointed out. In this way a student is permitted to approach the experiment in the same way in which the first person who did it approached it, *i. e.*, as a research problem.

The lecture system necessarily involves the use of some kind of grouping of the experiments. This last, however, is an advantage, as it permits running the laboratory and classroom work parallel to one another.

Another aid with the same object as above, is not to insist too strongly on precise measurements by elementary students. The elementary student is often frightened by the task of measuring a thing down to one one-hundredth of one per cent. with a strange piece of apparatus. Only after the student has acquired confidence in himself as an experimenter should great accuracy be insisted upon. However, from the very first the student should express the percentage of error of his observations. By accepting all work at first, with a percentage of error simply indicating poor experimental ability, the student is encouraged to try the experiment. This last also does away with the incentive to "doctor the results." On the other hand, the student dislikes to pass in an experiment with a larger percentage of error than that obtained by the best experimenter in the class, so that he tries his hardest to get a correct result.

The foregoing are simply aids to the spirit of research, the principal thing being the "attitude of the instructor" rather than any particular method.

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#### THE MEETINGS OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I feel like seconding all that Professor Morse has said in a recent (December 22, 1911) number of SCIENCE in regard to the custom that has arisen among some of the "affiliated societies," especially the zoologists, of holding the winter-meeting at a different place from that in which the American Association meets.

As I stated before the zoologists at the recent meeting at Princeton, there was a very strong feeling expressed by a number of prominent zoologists at the Washington meeting against the present method of meeting at different places, especially when the meetings are at the same time.

I should like to see a general expression of opinion, through these columns, or otherwise, upon this subject, especially by those zoologists who are members of the American Society of Zoologists. Such an expression of opinion might serve, in some measure, as a guide to the committee that was appointed by the Society of Zoologists to look into the matter.

ALBERT M. REESE

#### QUOTATIONS

##### THE BRITISH INSURANCE ACT

"BUYING men's all right—the trouble is they won't stay bought." Such was the reflection of a disillusioned political boss. In the same way it is often easy enough to "do" men. The trouble is they won't stay "done." Mr. Lloyd George is finding that out in the case of the doctors. The members of the medical profession are notoriously bad men of business. They are very busy, and they find it impossible, unlike most other professionals, to divide their lives into water-tight compartments of work and leisure. They are harassed at all hours by calls upon their time and, still more, upon their mental energy. Hence they can attend very little to their professional interests. This fact made them and their leaders an easy prey to so astute and persistent a diplomatist as Mr. Lloyd George. Early in the game he saw that from the point of view of public agitation and public opposition to his measure, it was far more important to conciliate the friendly societies and prevent their rising in revolt than to make concessions to the doctors. Accordingly he "put his money on the societies," and merely put a little chloroform on a handkerchief in the case of the doctors, whispering to them at the same time that it would be all right when they woke up. The suggestion was that they would be